

82344 - How to Make Ghusl for Major Impurity

the question

How is major ablution (ghusl) done? There are differences of opinion in a number of madhhabs, so who should I follow?

How did the Messenger (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) make minor and major ablutions?

Summary of answer

In order to make complete ghusl, do the following:

1. Form the intention to purify yourself from major impurity:
2. Say Bismillah and wash the hands three times, then wash any dirt from the private part.
3. Do wudu as for prayer.
4. Pour water over the head three times, and rub the hair so that the water reaches the roots of the hair.
5. Wash the body, making sure that the water reaches all parts, starting with the right side of the body and then the left, and rubbing it with the hands so that the water reaches the entire body.

Detailed answer

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Different *madhhabs*: Which one to follow?

You do not have to follow a particular madhhab; rather you have to ask a scholar whom you trust, one who is famous among the people for his knowledge and virtue, then follow the religious rulings that he explains to you.

It does not matter if there are differences of opinion among the scholars concerning religious matters, because this is something that Allah has willed by His wisdom, and the Muslim who is not able to work out the truth (*ijtihad*) is only obliged to ask the scholars, and he does not have to do more than that.

How to make wudu

In the answer to question number [11497](#) , we have explained how to do wudu (ablution) for minor impurity in detail. Please refer to this question.

Forms of *ghusl*

With regard to how to make *ghusl* for major impurity, the answer is:

There are two forms of *ghusl*:

Acceptable form: in the sense that if a person sufficed with doing *ghusl* in this manner, his *ghusl* is valid and he becomes purified from major impurity. But if a person misses to perform this *ghusl* completely, his *ghusl* is not valid.

Complete and preferred form: this is the type which it is *mustahabb* to do but is not obligatory.

How to make the acceptable form of *ghusl*

As for the obligatory and acceptable form it is as follows:

1- Form the intention to purify oneself from impurity: *janabah* (impurity following sexual discharge), menses or *nifas* (postpartum bleeding).

2- Wash the entire body with water once, making sure that the water reaches the roots of the hair and the places that it cannot reach easily, such as the armpits and backs of the knees, as well as rinsing the mouth and nose, according to the correct scholarly opinion.

Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said in *al-Sharh al-Mumti'* (1/423):

“The evidence that this *ghusl* is valid is the words of Allah (interpretation of the meaning):

“If you are in a state of Janabah (i.e. after a sexual discharge), purify yourselves (bathe your whole body)” [al-Maidah 5:6].

Allah did not mention anything apart from that. If a person washes his entire body once, then it is true to say that he has purified himself.”

How to make the complete form of ghusl

As for the complete form, it is as follows

1. Form the intention in the heart to purify oneself from major impurity: *janabah* (impurity following sexual discharge), menses or *nifas* (postpartum bleeding).
2. Then say *Bismillah* and wash the hands three times, then wash any dirt from the private part.
3. Then do *wudu* as for prayer, a complete *wudu*.
4. Then pour water over the head three times, and rub the hair so that the water reaches the roots of the hair.
5. Then wash the body, making sure that the water reaches all parts, starting with the right side of the body and then the left, and rubbing it with the hands so that the water reaches the entire body.

The evidence for this *mustahabb* form of *ghusl* is:

‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: When the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) did *ghusl* for *janaabah*, he would wash his hands and do *wudu*

as for prayer, then he would wash himself, then he would run his fingers through his hair, then when he thought that it [the water] had reached his skin, he would pour water over it [the head] three times, then he would wash the rest of his body. (Narrated by al-Bukhari (248) and Muslim (316))

‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) also said: When the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) did *ghusl* from *janabah*, he would call for something like a vessel used for milking and take water in his palm. He started with the right side of his head, then the left, then he took water in both palms and poured it all over his head. (Narrated by al-Bukhari (258) and Muslim (318))

Please see also the answer to question number [10790](#) .

One of the important rulings concerning this matter is that *ghusl* for major impurity takes the place of wudu’, so the person who has done *ghusl*, whether the complete or the acceptable form, does not have to repeat wudu, unless he does something that invalidates purity whilst doing *ghusl*.

See the answer to question number [68854](#) .

And Allah knows best.